



This list contains French words with their English translations. The words included here are those you are likely to find in genealogical sources. If the word you are looking for is not on this list, please consult a French-English dictionary. (See the "Additional Resources" section below.)

The French language is a Romance language derived from Latin. Although English is a Germanic language, it has many words of Latin and French derivation. Thus, many French words are similar to words in English but often have different meanings.

French is spoken in France; Quebec and other areas of Canada; Luxembourg; southern Belgium; southwestern Switzerland; northern and central Africa; some islands in the Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and Caribbean Sea; southeast Asia; and other areas formerly colonized or influenced by the French.

Between about 1800 and 1812, French was also used in records of the Rhineland area of Germany, northern Belgium, and the Netherlands. In addition, French is found in some early records of Louisiana and a few other places in the United States. Since about 1680, the grammar, if not the spelling, of official written French has been fairly well standardized throughout the world, even though there are many different forms of spoken French.

LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTICS

French words for persons, places, and things (nouns) are classified as masculine or feminine. Generally, adjectives used to describe feminine words end with *e*.

Le (masculine form of *the*) is used with masculine words. *La* (feminine form of *the*) is used with feminine words. But *l'* is used with either if the word begins with a vowel. For example, the word *enfant* means *child* or *infant*, either masculine or feminine. But *l'enfant est né* (the child is born) is used with a male child, and *l'enfant est née* with a female child.

Variant Forms of Words

In French, as in English, the forms of some words will vary according to how they are used in a

sentence. *Who—whose—whom* or *marry—marries—married* are examples of words in English with variant forms. This word list gives the standard form of each French word. As you read French records, you will need to be aware that some words vary with usage.

Plural forms of French words are usually created by adding *s* or *x* to the singular word. Thus *frère* becomes *frères*, and *beau* becomes *beaux*. The plural of *beau-frère* (brother-in-law) is *beaux-frères* (brothers-in-law).

In French there are five diacritical (accent) marks. These are placed over vowels or under the letter *c* to indicate a change in pronunciation. The following diacritical marks are used in French: *à, á, é, è, ê, ë, î, ï, ô, ö, û, ù* and *ç*. The *ç* is pronounced as an *s*. These diacritical marks do not affect alphabetical order.

Spelling

Spelling rules were not fixed in earlier centuries. In French the following spelling variations are common:

Variation		Example
<i>bv</i> used for	<i>v</i>	<i>février</i> spelled <i>febvrier</i>
<i>c</i> used for	<i>ss</i>	<i>aussi</i> spelled <i>auci</i>
<i>ct</i> used for	<i>t</i>	<i>faites</i> spelled <i>faictes</i>
<i>es</i> used for	<i>é</i>	<i>témoins</i> spelled <i>tesmoins</i>
<i>I</i> used for	<i>j</i>	<i>jour</i> spelled <i>iour</i>
<i>o</i> used for	<i>ou</i>	<i>tourner</i> spelled <i>tornier</i>
<i>os</i> used for	<i>ô</i>	<i>nôtre</i> spelled <i>nostre</i>
<i>sç</i> used for	<i>s</i>	<i>savoir</i> spelled <i>sçavoir</i>
<i>t</i> used for	<i>tt</i>	<i>cette</i> spelled <i>cete</i>
<i>y</i> used for	<i>i</i>	<i>hier</i> spelled <i>hyer</i>
<i>y</i> used for	<i>ill</i>	<i>filleul</i> spelled <i>fyeul</i>
<i>z</i> used for	<i>s</i>	<i>baptisé</i> spelled <i>baptizé</i>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

This word list includes *only words most commonly found in genealogical sources*. For further help, consult a French-English dictionary. You can obtain a French-English dictionary at most public libraries and through many bookstores.

Several French-English dictionaries are available at the Family History Library™. These are in the European collection. Their call numbers begin with 443.21.

The following dictionary is available on microfilm for use in Family History Centers™:

A. Spiers. *The Standard Pronouncing Dictionary of the French and English Languages*. New York: Appleton, 1900. (FHL book 443.21 Sp44s, film 1181694 item 4.)

Additional dictionaries are listed in the subject section of the Family History Library Catalog™ under FRENCH LANGUAGE—DICTIONARIES.

A helpful guide for reading genealogical records written in French is:

French Records Extraction. Salt Lake City, Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, n.d. (FHL fiche 6068523.) In addition to being a glossary of names and genealogical words, this guide includes examples of French documents and instructions in reading the handwriting.

KEY WORDS

To find and use specific types of French records, you will need to know some key words in French. This section gives key genealogical terms in English and the French words with the same or similar meanings.

For example, in the first column you will find the English word *marriage*. In the second column you will find French words with meanings such as *marry*, *marriage*, *wedding*, *wedlock*, *unite*, *legitimate*, *joined*, and other words used in French records to indicate marriage.

English	French
banns	publications, bans
baptism	baptême
birth	naissance, né, née
burial	sépulture, enterrement, enterré, inhumé, enseveli, funèbre
Catholic	catholique romaine
child	enfant
christening	baptême
civil registry	registres de l'état civil, mairie, maison communale, hôtel de ville
death	décès, mort, expiré, inanimé, défunt
father	père
husband	mari, époux, marié
index	tables, répertoire
Jewish	juif, juive, israélite, hébreu
marriage	mariage, alliance, unir, épouser
month	mois, mensuel
mother	mère

English	French
name, given	prénom, nom de baptême
name, surname	nom, nom de famille
parents	parents, père et mère
parish	paroisse, paroissiaux, paroissiale
Protestant	protestant, réformé, huguenot, R.P.R., luthérien, calviniste
town, village	ville, village, hameau, commune
wife	femme, épouse, mariée
year	an, année, annuel

GENERAL WORD LIST

This general word list includes words commonly seen in genealogical sources. Numbers, months, and days of the week are listed both here and in separate sections that follow this list. Words with the same spelling and meaning in English and French, such as *confirmation* or *date*, are not included in this list.

In this list, optional versions of French words or variable endings are given in parentheses. A few phrases are listed under the key word, not necessarily the first word. Words in parentheses in the English column clarify the definition. Feminine or masculine meanings of French words are indicated by (f.) or (m.).

French	English
A	
à	at, to, in
a	has
abjurations	renunciations of Protestant faith
absolution	absolution, last rites
accoucher	give birth
accoucheuse	midwife
à cet endroit	in this place
acheter	to buy
acte de baptême	baptismal record
acte de décès	death record
acte de naissance	birth certificate, record
acte de sépulture	burial record
adjoint du maire	mayor's assistant
adopté(e)	adopted
adultère	adulterer
affiché	posted (on door)
afficher les bans	post banns
âgé(e)	aged
ai (ay)	I have
aïeul	grandfather
aïeule	grandmother
aîné (l'aîné)	the older, senior
ainsi que	as well as
à jour	current
Algerie	Algeria

French

English

alité	bedridden
Allemand(e)	German
alliance	marriage
Alsacien(ne)	Alsatian
ami(e)	friend
an (année)	year
anabaptiste	Mennonite
anglais(e)	English
anniversaire	anniversary
annuaire	directory
annuel	annual, yearly
août	August
apparu	appeared
appelé(e)	named
apprenti	apprentice
approuvé	approved
après	after
après-midi	afternoon
arbre généalogique	family tree, pedigree
archives	archive
Archives du Royaume	state archives (Belgium)
Archives Nationales	state archives (France)
a reçu	has received
armoiries	coat of arms
arpent	acre
arpenteur	surveyor
arpète	errand boy, apprentice
arrière	great (as in great-grandparents)
arrondissement	district (administrative division of a French <i>département</i>)
attaque	seizure
au	at the, in the
aubergiste	innkeeper
aucun(e)	no, none
au dessus	over
aujourd'hui	today
au même endroit	at the same place
auparavant	former
aussi	also, as, since
autant	as much
autorisation	permission
autour	around
autre	other
avant	former, before
avant-hier	the day before yesterday
avec	with
avocat	attorney
avoir	to have
avons	(we) have
avril	April
ayant	having

French

English

B

ban (le)	the territory
bans	marriage banns, announcement(s)
baptême	baptism
baptême d'urgence	emergency baptism
baptisé	baptized
baptisé sous condition	conditionally baptized
Baptiste	Baptist
bas	low, lower
batisseur	builder
beau-fils	son-in-law, stepson
beau-frère	brother-in-law, stepbrother
beau-père	father-in-law, stepfather
bêcheur	field worker
Belge	Belgian
belle-fille	daughter-in-law, stepdaughter
belle-mère	mother-in-law, stepmother
belle-soeur	sister-in-law, stepsister
berger	shepherd
bien	well
biens	goods, property
biographie	biography
blanc (blanche)	white
bon (bonne)	good
bonne	maid, female servant
boucher	butcher
boulangier	baker
bourgeois	citizen, member of the middle class
bourguignon	Burgundian
bouvier	herdsman, cowherd
brasseur	brewer
brassier	farmworker, laborer (old word)
Bretagne	Brittany
[oncle à la mode de Bretagne]	[first cousin of one's parent]
briquetier	brick maker
bru	daughter-in-law
brumaire	See "Months" on page 12.
bureau	office

C

cabaretier	barkeeper
canton	administrative division of an <i>arrondissement</i> (in France), province (in Switzerland), township (in French Canada)
carte	map
catholique romaine	Roman Catholic
ce, c'	it
ce, cet, cette	this, that
céans	here within

French	English
cejourd'hier	yesterday
cejourd'hui	today
célèbre	famous
célibataire	bachelor, unmarried, single
celle	this one, she
celle-ci	the latter (f.)
celle-là	the former (f.)
celui	this one, he
celui-ci	the latter (m.)
celui-là	the former (m.)
cent	hundred
centième	hundredth
certificat	certificate
ceux	those
charbonnier	charcoal burner
charcutier	pork merchant
charretier	cart or carriage man
charron	cartwright, wheelwright
chasseur	hunter
château	castle
châtelain	owner of a castle
chaudronnier	cooper, barrel maker
chez	at the home of
chirurgien	surgeon
ci-dessous	below here
ci-dessus	above here
cimetière	cemetery
cinq	five
cinquante	fifty
cinquantième	fiftieth
cinquième	fifth
citoyen(ne)	citizen
clergé	clergymen
colline	hill
communauté	community (of goods), religious community
commune	town, commune (smallest political division in France)
communion	communion
compagnon	journeyman, partner
comparu	appeared
comprend	includes
comte	count
concubine	concubine
congestion cérébrale	stroke
conjoint	spouse, assistant
connaissance	acquaintance
conseil d'état civil	civil registrar's
conseiller	councilor
consentement	consent
contenu	content
contractant	the groom (in a marriage record)
contractante	the bride (in a marriage record)
contrat de mariage	marriage contract
contre	against

French	English
coqueluche	whooping cough
cordier	rope maker
cordonnier	shoemaker
côte	hill
couches	bed, marital bed
[morte en couches]	[died in childbirth]
coup de sang	paralytic stroke
cour	court
courant	current
cousin(e)	cousin
cousin(e) germain(e)	first cousin
couvreur	roofer
culte	religion
cultivateur	farmer, cultivator
curateur	guardian
curé	parish minister, pastor, priest, clergyman

D

d'	of
dame	lady
dans	in
de	of, from, out
décapité	decapitated
décédé	the deceased
décembre	December
décennal(e)	decennial
décennie	decade
décès	death, deaths
déclarant	informant
déclaré	declared, stated
décrépitude	old age
défunt(e)	deceased
dehors	outside
de la	of the, some
demain	tomorrow
demeurant	living at
demi	half
demi frère	stepbrother, half brother
demi soeur	stepsister, half sister
demoiselle	Miss (of well-to-do parents, may be a married woman)
département	department (French "county" since 1790)
depuis	since
derniers sacrements	last rites
des	of the, some
desdits	of the said (pl.)
dessous	lower, below
dessus	above
deux	two
deuxième	second
devant	in front of
devenir	to become
devoir	should
d'hier	yesterday's

French	English
dictionnaire	dictionary
dictionnaire des communes	gazetteer
dimanche	Sunday
dîme	tithing
diocèse	diocese
dispense	exemption, dispensation
dit(e) (ditte)	said, also known as, aforementioned
divers(e)	various
divorcé(e)	divorced
dix	ten
dix-huit	eighteen
dix-huitième	eighteenth
dixième	tenth
dix-neuf	nineteen
dix-neuvième	nineteenth
dix-sept	seventeen
dix-septième	seventeenth
domaine	estate
domestique	servant girl, maid
domicile	home, residence, domicile
donné	given
donner	to give
dons	donations
dont	of whom, of which
double	duplicate record
douze	twelve
douzième	twelfth
droguiste	druggist
droit(e)	right
du	of the, some
duc	duke
duché	duchy
duchesse	duchess
durant	during

E

eaux-et-forêts	waters and forests, forestry service
ébéniste	cabinetmaker, furniture maker
échevin	alderman, municipal magistrate
école	school
écrire	to write
écrit	written, document
écrivain	scribe, writer
église	church
elle	she, her
elles	they (f.)
émigrant(e)	emigrant
émigré(e)	emigrant
empêchement	prevention
employé(e)	clerk
en	in
enceinte	pregnant

French	English
encore	again
endroit	place
enfant	baby, child
enfant exposé	foundling
enfant trouvé	foundling
enflement	swelling
ensemble	together
entend	intends, hears
enterré(e)	buried
enterrement	burial, interment
entre	between, among
environ	about, approximately
épicier	grocer, spice merchant
épousailles	wedding
épouse	bride, wife
époux	bridegroom, husband
Espagnol(e)	Spanish
est	is, east
et	and
étaient	were
était	was
étant (estant)	being
état	state
état civil	civil registration
été	been, summer
étranger	foreign, foreigner, strange
être	to be
[un être]	[a being]
évêché	diocese
évêque	bishop
exécuté	performed
expédié(s)	sent
extérieur	outside
extrait	extract

F

fabricant de bas	maker of stockings
fabricant de savon	maker of soap
facteur	postman, mailman
facture	account, bill
faiblesse	weakness
fait(e)	made, done
famille	family, relative(s)
féminin	female
femme	wife, woman
ferblantier	tin man, tinsmith
fermier	farmer
fête	holiday, feast
feu(e)	deceased, the late
feuille	folio, leaf, page
février	February
fiançailles	engagement
fiancé	betrothed, engaged, fiancé (m.)
fiancée	betrothed, engaged, fiancée (f.)
fiancer	to become engaged
fichier	card index

French	English
fièvre	fever
fileuse	spinster
fille	daughter, girl
fille de mauvaise vie	prostitute
fils	son
floréal	<i>See "Months" on page 12.</i>
fonction	duty, occupation, function
[faisant les fonctions]	[doing the functions (occupation), serving as]
fonts	(baptismal) font
forestier	forester
forêt	forest
forgeron	smith
forteresse	fortress
frais	fee
Français(e)	French
franc-tenancier	freeholder, yeoman
frère	brother
frère consanguin	brother by the same father but different mother
frère germain	brother by the same mother and father
frère utérin	brother by the same mother but different father
frimaire	<i>See "Months" on page 12.</i>
fromager	cheese merchant or maker
frontière	border
fructidor	<i>See "Months" on page 12.</i>
funèbre	funeral
furent	were
fut	was
futur	fiancé, the intended groom
future	fiancée, the intended bride

G

garçon	boy, unmarried young man
garde champêtre	field guard
garde forestier	forest guard
gardien	herdsman
gauche	left
gendarme	policeman
gendre	son-in-law
généalogique	genealogical
géomètre	surveyor
germinal	<i>See "Months" on page 12.</i>
goutte	gout
grand(e)	large, great, tall
grandmère	grandmother
grandparents	grandparents
grandpère	grandfather
greffier	clerk of the court, registrar

H

habitant	residing
habitation	residence

French	English
habiter	to inhabit
haut	high, upper
hectare	acre
héraldique	heraldry
héritage	inheritance
heure	hour, time
hier	yesterday
histoire	story, history
Hollandais(e)	Dutch
homme	man
homme de main	day worker
honnête	honest
horloger	clock merchant or maker
houilleur	coal miner
Huguenot(te)	Huguenot
huissier	usher, doorman
huit	eight
huitante	eighty
huitantième	eightieth
huitième	eighth
hydropisie	dropsy, edema

I

icelle	this one (f.)
icelui	this one (m.)
ici	here
id. (Latin)	the same
identique	same, alike, similar
il	he
illégitime	illegitimate
immigrant(e)	immigrant
imposé	imposed, gave
impôts	taxation
inconnu(e)	unknown
inférieur(e)	lower
instituteur	schoolteacher (m.)
institutrice	schoolteacher (f.)
intérieur	inside
inventaire après décès	inventory after death
Italien(ne)	Italian

J

jamais	never
janvier	January
jardinier	gardener
je	I
jeudi	Thursday
jeune	young, the younger, junior
jeûne	fasting, fast day
jour	day
jour de baptême	day of baptism
jour d'hier, le	yesterday
journalier	day laborer, farmworker
jour suivant	the following day
juge	judge

French	English
Juif	Jewish, Jew
juillet	July
juin	June
Juive	Jewish, Jewess
jumeaux	twins (male, or male and female)
jumelles	twins (female)
juré	juryman

K

kilomètre	kilometer
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L

l'	the (m. and f.)
la	the (f.)
là	there
laboureur	plowman, farmer (man with team and plow)
lac	lake
laisser	let, leave, allow
laquelle	which (f.)
le	the (m.)
lecture	reading
légal(e)	legal
légitime	legitimate
lendemain	following day
lequel	which (m.)
les	the (plural)
lesquels	which (plural)
leur	their, to them
lieu	place
livre	book
livret de famille	family register
loi	law
lui	him, to him
lundi	Monday
Luxembourgeois(e)	Luxembourger

M

M.	sir, Mr.
maçon	mason, bricklayer
Madame	Mrs.
Mademoiselle	unmarried woman, Miss
magister	village schoolmaster
mai	May
maire	mayor
mairie	town hall
mais	but
maison	house
[maison communale]	[town hall]
maître	master
maître d'école	schoolteacher
majeur	of legal age, (older)

French	English
majorité	legal age, majority
maladie	disease, sickness
maraîcher	market gardener
marchand	merchant
marchant	trader, merchant
marché	market
mardi	Tuesday
maréchal ferrant	blacksmith
mari	husband
mariage	marriage, wedding
marié	groom, husband, married (m.)
mariée	bride, wife, married (f.)
marier (se marier)	to get married
mariés	the married ones
marin	sailor
Marocain(e)	Moroccan
marraine	godmother
mars	March
masculin	male, masculine
matin	early (A.M.), morning
mégisseur	tanner
membre	member
même	the same, even
mendiant	beggar
menuisier	joiner, carpenter
mercredi	Wednesday
mère	mother
mériter	to be worthy
messe	Catholic mass
messidor	See "Months" on page 12.
métayer	dairy keeper, cowherd, sharecropper
métier	trade, occupation, profession
métis, métisse	mixed blood
meunier	mill
midi	noon
mil	thousand
militaire	military
mille	thousand
millième	thousandth
mineur	under legal age, younger, minor
minorité	under legal age, minority
minuit	midnight
mis(e) en terre	buried
Mlle	Mademoiselle, Miss
Mme	Madame, Mrs.
moi	me
mois	month
Monsieur	sir, Mr.
montagne	hill, mountain
mort(e)	dead, death
mort né	stillborn
moulin	mill
mourant	dying
mourir	to die

French	English
moyen(ne)	middle, median, central
mulâtre	mulatto
muni des sacrements de l'Eglise	furnished with the (last) rites of the church

N

naissance	birth
naturel	illegitimate (not always true)
né(e)	born
née	maiden name
négociant	trader, businessman
neuf	nine
neuvième	ninth
neveu	nephew
ni	neither, nor
nièce	niece
nivôse	See "Months" on page 12.
noble	nobleman
noblesse	nobility
noces	wedding
noir(e)	black
nom	name, surname
nom de famille	surname, last name
nommé(e)	named, alias
non	not
nonante	ninety
nonantième	ninetieth
nord	north
Norman(de)	Norman
notaire	notary
notes	remarks
nôtre (nostre)	our
nous	we, us
nouveau, nouvelle	new
novembre	November
noyé(e)	drowned
nuît	night
numéro	number
nuptial(e)	bridal, pertaining to a wedding

O

obsèques	funeral, burial
octante	eighty
octantième	eightieth
octobre	October
oncle	uncle
ondoyé(e)	baptized provisionally
ont	(they) have
onze	eleven
onzième	eleventh
orphelin(e)	orphan
ou	or

French	English
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où	where
ouest	west

P

page	page
Palatinat	Palatinate, Pfalz
par	by
pareil(le)	same, alike, similar
parent	parent, relative
paroisse	parish (office)
parrain	godfather
part	portion, part
[d'une part]	[on the one hand]
[et d'autre part]	[and on the other hand]
pas	not
pas encore	not yet
passé	past
pasteur	pastor
pâtissier	pastry maker
pâtre	herdsman
pauvre	indigent, poor
pays	land, country
paysan(ne)	small farmer, peasant
pêcheur	fisher
peintre	painter
penultième	day before the last
percer des dents	teething
père	father
petit	small, little
petite-fille	granddaughter
petite noblesse	gentry
petit-fils	grandson
petit propriétaire	yeoman
peuple	citizens
peut-être	maybe, perhaps
pharmacien	pharmacist
pièces	documents
pied terrier	land record
place	place
plus, en	besides, in addition to
plus âgé(e)	older, elder, oldest, eldest
plus vieux	older, elder, oldest, eldest
pluviôse	See "Months" on page 12.
policier	policeman
pont	bridge
population	population
porte	door
Portugais(e)	Portuguese
poser	place, put
pour	for
pourquoi	why
prairial	See "Months" on page 12.
précédent(e)	previous, preceding
préfet	prefect (the head of a département in France)
premier, première	first

French	English
prénom	given (first) name
près de	next to
présenté	presented
prêtre	clergyman, priest
preuve	proof
principalité	principality
prochain(e)	following, next, nearest
proche parent	close relative
professeur	professor, teacher
propos de, à	about, concerning
propriétaire	owner, proprietor
protestant	Protestant
provincial(e)	provincial
Prussien(ne)	Prussian
publié	published, announced
publier	publish

Q

quand	when
quarante	forty
quarantième	fortieth
quartier	district or neighborhood in a city
quatorze	fourteen
quatorzième	fourteenth
quatre	four
quatre-vingt-dix	ninety
quatre-vingt-dixième	ninetieth
quatre-vingt	eighty
quatre-vingtième	eightieth
quatrième	fourth
que (qu')	what, which, that
qui	who, whom
quinze	fifteen
quinzième	fifteenth
quoi	what

R

recensement	census
recherche	research
reconnu	recognized, acknowledged
reçu(e)	received
réformé(e)	Reformed/Calvinist
régisseur	farm manager, steward
registre	register
registres d'état	civil registers of births, civil marriages, and deaths
registres paroissiaux	parish registers
reine	queen
religion	religion
religion prétendue réformée (R.P.R.)	Reformed Church, Huguenot
rentier(e)	retired person living from rents, landlord

French	English
répertoire	register, index
répertoire toponymique	gazetteer
République Française	French Republic
retraité	formerly employed, retired
revue	periodical
rien	nothing
rivière	stream, river
roi (roy)	king
rouge	red
rougeole	measles
royaume	kingdom
rue	street
Russe	Russian

S

sa	his, her, its
sabotier	wooden-shoe maker
sacristain	sacristan, sexton
sage-femme	midwife
saignement	bleeding
sain	sane, healthy
saints sacrements d'absolution	last rites
samedi	Saturday
sans	without
sans vie	without life, lifeless
savoir	to know, namely
savonnier	soap merchant, soapmaker
saxon	Saxon
scarlatine	scarlet fever
sceau	seal
scieur	sawyer
Seigneur	the Lord
seize	sixteen
seizième	sixteenth
selon	according to
semaine	week
sénilité	old age
sept	seven
septante	seventy
septantième	seventieth
septembre	September
septième	seventh
sépulture	burial
seront	(they) will be
serrurier	locksmith
servante	maid, servant girl
ses	his, her, its
seul(e)	single, alone
seulement	only
sexe	sex
siècle	century
signature	signature
signé	signed
six	six

French	English
sixième	sixth
société	society
soeur	sister
soeur consanguine	sister by the same father but different mother
soeur germaine	sister by the same mother and father
soeur utérine	sister by the same mother but different father
soir (soirée)	evening
soixante	sixty
soixante-dix	seventy
soixante-dixième	seventieth
soixantième	sixtieth
soldat	soldier
son	his, her, its
sont	are
sous	under, low
soussigné	the undersigned
souvent	often
statut légal	status, condition
statut personnel	status, condition
sud	south
Suisse	Swiss
suivant(e)	next, following, according to
supérieur(e)	upper
sur	on, above, upon, at
surlendemain	two days later
survivant	surviving
sus-dit	aforementioned
susnommé	aforementioned

T

table	index
tables décennales	ten-year indexes
tailleur	cloth maker, draper
tailleur de pierre	stonecutter
tailleur d'habits	tailor
tanneur	tanner
tant	as, so much
tante	aunt
tantôt	afternoon
tavernier	tavern owner
teinturier	dyer
témoin	witness
temps	time
tenir un enfant sur les fonts	to act as godfather or godmother to a child
terre	earth, land
terres	estate
testament	last will
thermidor	See "Months" on page 12.
tisserand	weaver
tisserand de lin	linen weaver
tisseur	weaver
tome	volume

French	English
tonnelier	cooper
tôt	early (A.M.)
toujours	always
tournier	turner, woodworker
tous	all
tous les deux	both
toux	cough
travailleur	worker, laborer
travers, à	through, across
treize	thirteen
treizième	thirteenth
trente	thirty
trente-et-un	thirty-one
trente-et-unième	thirty-first
trentième	thirtieth
tribunal	court
trois	three
troisième	third
tuilier	tile maker
tumeur	tumor
tuteur	guardian

U

un, une	a, an, one
unième	first
unis en mariage	united in marriage

V

valet	servant
vallée	valley
varie	various
variole	smallpox
veille	previous evening or day
vendémiaire	See "Months" on page 12.
vendeur	seller, salesman
vendeuse	seller, saleslady
vendredi	Friday
ventôse	See "Months" on page 12.
vérole	venereal disease, syphilis
vérole, petite	smallpox
verrier	glassmaker
vers	toward
vert	green
veuf	widowed, widower
veuve	widowed, widow
vie	life
vieillesse	old age
vierge	virgin, unmarried woman
vieux (vielle)	old
vieux garçon	bachelor
vigneron	grape grower
village	hamlet, village
ville	village or town, city
vingt	twenty
vingt-cinq	twenty-five

French**English**

vingt-cinquième	twenty-fifth
vingt-deux	twenty-two
vingt-deuxième	twenty-second
vingt-et-un	twenty-one
vingt-et-unième	twenty-first
vingt-huit	twenty-eight
vingt-huitième	twenty-eighth
vingtième	twentieth
vingt-neuf	twenty-nine
vingt-neuvième	twenty-ninth
vingt-quatre	twenty-four
vingt-quatrième	twenty-fourth
vingt-sept	twenty-seven
vingt-septième	twenty-seventh
vingt-six	twenty-six
vingt-sixième	twenty-sixth
vingt-trois	twenty-three
vingt-troisième	twenty-third
vivant	living, lifetime
vivant, de son	during his (her) life
vivre	to live
voir	see
voisin(e)	neighbor
vouloir	to wish, to want

NUMBERS

In some genealogical sources, numbers are written out. This is especially true with dates. The following list gives the cardinal (1, 2, 3) and the ordinal (1st, 2nd, 3rd) versions of each number. Dates are usually written in ordinal form. Ordinal numbers are made by adding *ième* to the cardinal form of a number. If the number ends in an *e*, drop the *e* before adding *ième*.

From 60 to 99, the French count by twenties rather than by tens. Thus, 70 in French is sixty-ten, and 71 is sixty-eleven. The number 80 is *four-twenty*; 81 is *four-twenties-one*; 91 is *four-twenties-eleven*; and so on through 99, which is *four-twenties-nineteen*. In some areas, however, you will see the older style of 70 (*septante*), 80 (*octante* or *huitante*), and 90 (*nonante*).

Cardinal**Ordinal**

1 un	1st premier
2 deux	2nd deuxième
3 trois	3rd troisième
4 quatre	4th quatrième
5 cinq	5th cinquième
6 six	6th sixième
7 sept	7th septième
8 huit	8th huitième
9 neuf	9th neuvième
10 dix	10th dixième
11 onze	11th onzième
12 douze	12th douzième
13 treize	13th treizième

Cardinal**Ordinal**

14 quatorze	14th quatorzième
15 quinze	15th quinzième
16 seize	16th seizième
17 dix-sept	17th dix-septième
18 dix-huit	18th dix-huitième
19 dix-neuf	19th dix-neuvième
20 vingt	20th vingtième
21 vingt-et-un	21st vingt-et-unième
22 vingt-deux	22nd vingt-deuxième
23 vingt-trois	23rd vingt-troisième
24 vingt-quatre	24th vingt-quatrième
25 vingt-cinq	25th vingt-cinquième
26 vingt-six	26th vingt-sixième
27 vingt-sept	27th vingt-septième
28 vingt-huit	28th vingt-huitième
29 vingt-neuf	29th vingt-neuvième
30 trente	30th trentième
31 trente-et-un	31st trente-et-unième
40 quarante	40th quarantième
50 cinquante	50th cinquantième
60 soixante	60th soixantième
70 soixante-dix, septante	70th soixante-dixième, septantième
71 soixante-onze, septante-un	71st soixante-onzième, septante-et-unième
80 quatre-vingt(s), octante, huitante	80th quatre-vingtième, octantième, huitantième
90 quatre-vingt-dix, nonante	90th quatre-vingt-dixième, nonantième
99 quatre-vingt-dix-neuf, nonante-neuf	99th quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième, nonante-neuvième
100 cent	100th centième
1000 mil, mille	1000th millième

DATES AND TIME

In French records, dates are often written out. For example:

Le vingt-trois mars mil sept cent soixante dix-neuf [on the twenty-third day of March, in the year one thousand seven hundred sixty and nineteen (1779)]

To understand French dates, use the following lists as well as the preceding "Numbers" section.

Months

English	French
January	janvier
February	février
March	mars
April	avril
May	mai
June	juin

English	French
July	juillet
August	août
September	septembre, 7bre
October	octobre, 8bre
November	novembre, 9bre
December	décembre, 10bre, Xbre

During the years 1792 to 1806, the French used a unique calendar that related to the founding of the French Republic. It included the following months:

vendémiaire	brumaire	frimaire
nivôse	pluviôse	ventôse
germinal	floréal	prairial
messidor	thermidor	fructidor

These month names cannot be translated because they do not correspond to the months we know as January to December. See the *French Republican Calendar Research Outline* (34046).

Days of the Week

English	French
Sunday	dimanche
Monday	lundi
Tuesday	mardi
Wednesday	mercredi
Thursday	jeudi
Friday	vendredi
Saturday	samedi

Times of the Day

In French birth and death records, the registrar often indicated the exact time of day when the birth or death occurred. This is usually written out.

French	English
à cinq heures	at 5 o'clock
au matin	in the morning
au soir	in the evening
après-demain	the day after tomorrow
après-midi	afternoon
avant-veille	two days before
avant-hier	day before yesterday
demain	tomorrow
du matin	in the morning, A.M.
du soir	in the evening, P.M.
heure	hour
hier	yesterday
hier soir	yesterday evening
hier au soir	yesterday evening
jour	day
lendemain	next day
matin	morning
midi	noon
minuit	midnight
nuît	night
soir	evening
surlendemain	two days later
veille	previous evening

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